

VISIT...

LANZAROTE  
*Caliente*.COM



JEPH LOEB

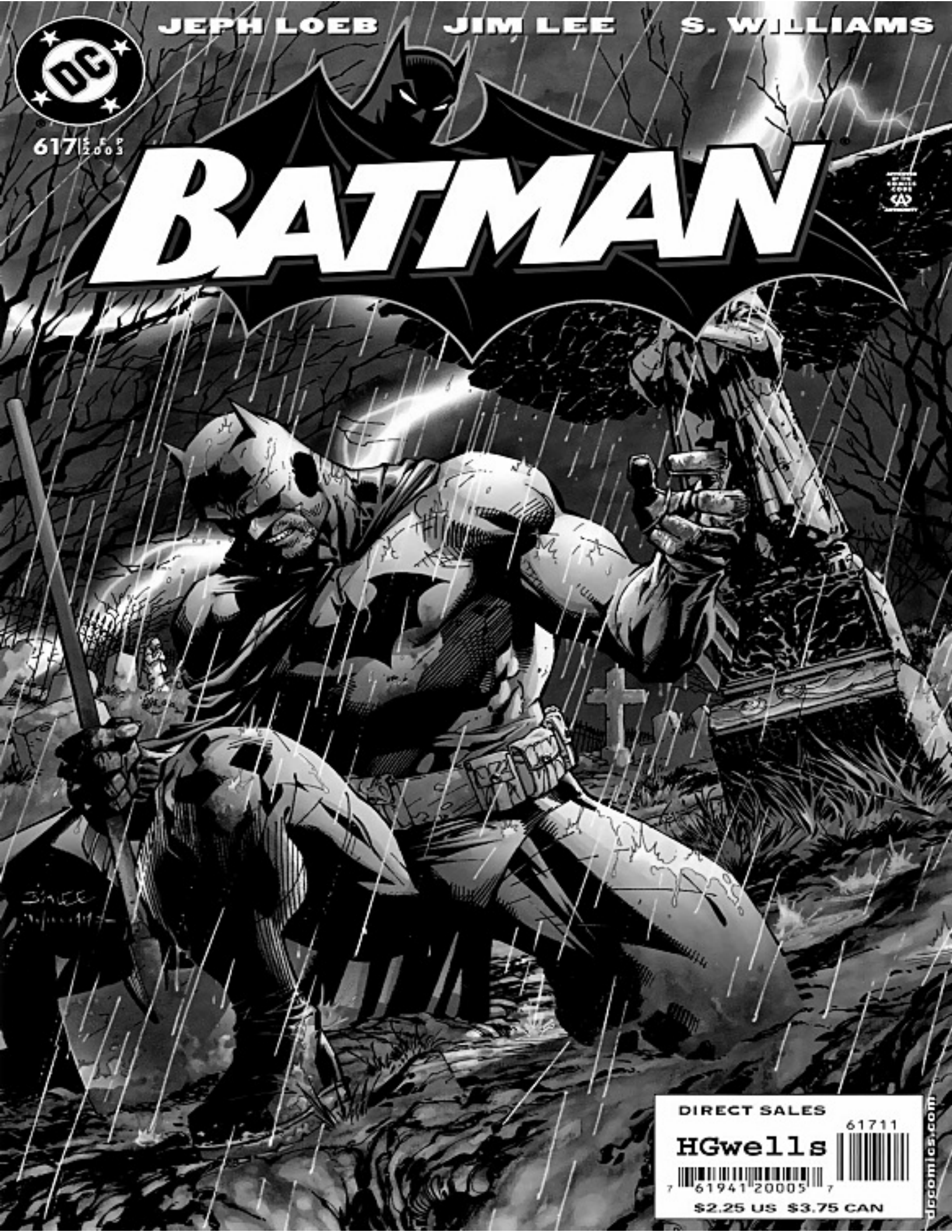
JIM LEE

S. WILLIAMS

617

F P  
2003

# BATMAN



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The Cave.  
Underneath Wayne Manor.

CAN YOU  
AT LEAST TELL  
ME WHAT YOU'RE  
LOOKING FOR?

I have invited Catwoman...  
Selina... down here.

To include her  
in this investigation.



ANSWERS.

YOU THINK  
YOU COULD BE  
A LITTLE MORE  
VAGUE?

To include her in... my life.



WHAT IF EVERYTHING  
THAT'S HAPPENED IN  
THE PAST FEW  
MONTHS --

-- POISON IVY'S  
TAKING CONTROL  
OF YOU --

-- KILLER  
CROC'S  
SUBSEQUENT  
ATTACK --

--THE FIGHTS  
WITH SUPERMAN,  
HARLEY QUINN,  
THE JOKER --

-- TOMMY  
ELLIOT'S  
DEATH --

-- ALL HAD BEEN  
ORCHESTRATED?

CURIOUS.  
WHO'S DOING IT  
AND WHY?



SINCE THIS  
ALL STARTED,  
WHAT IS  
DIFFERENT?

US.

AND DO YOU  
THINK THAT'S A  
RESULT OF --

HOLD THAT  
THOUGHT.



*Ra's al Ghul had a sword imbedded into this computer console.*

*At the time, I was focused on the sword itself and its meaning. It's placement appeared random other than to draw my attention.*

WHY DON'T YOU COME OUT AND JOIN THE PARTY...?

...**ROBIN.**



*In doing so, I may have neglected the first rule as a detective...*



*...nothing is random.*



*MAYBE BECAUSE I WASN'T ASKED.*

*BUT I'LL BE HAPPY TO CRASH IT.*

*Admittedly, Catwoman has been a... distraction.*

*Is that what my opponent intended?*



Tim Drake came into my life uninvited.

Dick Grayson had left,  
outgrowing his role as Robin  
and choosing to become  
Nightwing.

POOSH

YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
BE HERE.

And after  
Jason Todd died...

YOU  
SHOULDN'T BE  
TELLING OTHER  
PEOPLE WHAT  
TO DO.

YOU  
MIGHT'VE  
FOOLED  
HIM.

SEDUCED  
HIM.

BUT,  
I KNOW WHAT  
YOU ARE --

KID.

TKUSH

YOU  
DON'T KNOW  
THE FIRST  
THING ABOUT  
ME.

SO, LET ME  
SCHOOL YOU ON  
SOMETHING --

WHP

--I DON'T LET GROWN  
MEN SPEAK TO ME  
THE WAY YOU  
JUST DID --

After Jason died, I swore there would  
never be another Robin, and yet...

-- BUT THOSE  
WHO HAVE ONLY  
DID IT ONCE.

*I made a promise on the grave of my parents to rid this city of the evil that took their lives. By day, I am Bruce Wayne, billionaire philanthropist. At night, criminals, a cowardly and superstitious lot, call me...*

# BATMAN

CREATED BY  
**BOB KANE**

## Chapter Ten THE GRAVE

*Sepp*  
**LOEB**  
*writes*

*Jim*  
**LEE**  
*pencil*

ENOUGH.

Tim Drake is Robin,  
The Teen Wonder.

*Scott*  
**WILLIAMS**  
*inks*  
*Richard*  
**STARKINGS**  
*letters*  
*Alex*  
**SINCLAIR**  
*colors*  
*Bob*  
**SCHRECK**  
*edits*  
*Michael*  
**WRIGHT**  
*associate edits*  
*special thanks to*  
*Mark*  
**CHIARELLO**









*Tim clung to a theory that Batman needs a Robin.*

YOU GOT IT STRAIGHT NOW?

OR DO I HAVE TO DRAW YOU A PICTURE?



*More than just for a legacy, but as a balance.*

YOU SHOULD'VE--  
I SHOULD HAVE WHAT?

CONSULTED YOU?  
THIS WAS MY DECISION.



THEN, YOU MADE THE WRONG ONE.

IT WAS MINE TO MAKE.



*I had taken both Dick and Jason in when they had no place else to go.*

*But Tim sought out the role. He wanted to be Robin.*

*And as hard as I tried to convince him otherwise, Tim worked for it.*









I had told Tim about my decision to include Selina in my life...

...if for no other reason than I knew Dick would tell him and Tim should hear it from me.

**VROOOM**

127 mph

He was angry. Confused. And I had to remember how young he is and how long ago it was since I was his age.

If Tim has one character flaw, it's that he still sees the world in blacks and whites. Good and evil wear very different masks in his eyes.

**SKREEECH**

HEY!

HUNTRESS...?

He's getting old enough to accept that there are "grays" in every situation. We may not like them, but it's part of what we do.

And my relationship with Catwoman is, at best, gray.

So... when Tim asked the obvious question, "Do you trust her?"...

LADY, YOU PICKED THE **WRONG** NIGHT TO PLAY GAMES WITH ME...

--I gave him the obvious answer.

"I wouldn't have told her I was Bruce Wayne unless I didn't."

**SKRREEEEK**



Three nights later, I came back to Tim and said I trusted him.

Whoever it is that is interfering in my life--

--who killed Tommy Elliot--

--is someone close. Someone who knows me. Has studied me.



And if my experience when I first met Tim still holds true--

--then it is possible this individual -- if it is one person -- has uncovered...

... Bruce Wayne is Batman.

WE DIDN'T KNOW.



"WE...?"

WHEN WE TOOK THE MONEY. FOR THE BIKE. THE EQUIPMENT. THE NEW UNIFORM.

WE CHECKED THE GUY OUT. HE WAS CLEAN. THE MONEY WAS CLEAN OR WE WOULDN'T HAVE TAKEN IT.

BUT... WHEN THEY KILLED HIM, I KNEW IT WAS ALL GOING TO UNRAVEL.

HUNTRESS. I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



I SAVED HIS LIFE.

NOT THAT HE'D EVER THANK ME, BUT IF I HADN'T PUT HIM IN THE CAR...



I KNEW HE'D FIGURE OUT MY BEING NEAR CRIME ALLEY WAS TOO COINCIDENTAL.

THAT I'D BE THE FIRST ONE THERE.



I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.

ARE YOU... ON SOMETHING?

I need to know...

I need to know if I made a mistake with Selina.



IT'S GOING  
TO GET WORSE  
BEFORE IT GETS  
BETTER!

SLAM





**HUNTRESS!**

As Alfred would undoubtedly say,  
"The seeds of doubt grow bitter fruit."











Huntress' movements.  
Her speech pattern.  
Her obvious fear of  
something that is  
haunting her.

TALK  
TO ME,  
DAMMIT!

Only one person could have  
affected her mind in that way.

Jonathan Crane is  
The Scarecrow.  
Psychiatrist turned  
Psychopath.

HUSH,  
LITTLE BABY,  
DON'T SAY  
A WORD...

VR  
OOOM

His involvement in tonight...  
in all of this... reveals a great deal.

...MAMA'S GOING  
TO BUY YOU A  
MOCKINGBIRD.



AND IF THAT  
MOCKINGBIRD  
DON'T SING...

Crane has developed  
various Fear Toxins  
that invade the mind.

Depending on the severity  
of the dose, there can be  
no immediate antidote--

--other than  
time and sleep.



...MAMA'S  
GOING TO BUY  
YOU A DIAMOND  
RING.

Scarecrow's control  
hangs on keeping his  
opponent off balance.

Rearranging reality.

But... it wasn't until now that  
I could be sure that all of  
this night was arranged...



WHARROO





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MAMA'S  
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YOU A DIAMOND  
RING.



WHARROO













The voice...muffled by  
the bandages...hidden  
in the wind...

YOU CARE  
ABOUT THIS...  
IMPOSTOR...

...PRETENDER...



LET  
THE BOY  
GO.

WHY? WHY  
SHOULD I GIVE  
HIM THE CHANCE  
YOU NEVER  
GAVE ME?

WHO ARE  
YOU?



THE WORLD'S  
GREATEST DETECTIVE  
AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T  
FIGURED IT OUT?

SHLAK



This place is...was a secret.  
We...Alfred and I had the  
body moved here so no  
one could find it.

Defile it.

LIFE'S  
JUST A GAME,  
BATMAN...



...AND  
THIS TIME,  
YOU  
LOSE.

Jason Todd became Robin  
after Dick Grayson.

Hoping to harness the  
rage that had driven him  
throughout his life,  
I taught him how to fight.

He knows all  
my secrets.

...and he has been  
dead for years...

Next: **BATMAN vs ROBIN**



# DC

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This Month's Cover by...  
JIM LEE AND SCOTT WILLIAMS,  
COLORS BY ALEX SINCLAIR.

Next Month in...

**Batman #618**

As we near the pulse-pounding finale of "Hush," Batman draws closer to the ultimate secret of this year's most intriguing mystery. By Loeb, Lee and Williams.



# TAKING AIM AT BATMAN



**BATMAN #620**

100 BULLETS top guns Brian Azzarello and Eduardo Risso set their sights on the legend of the Dark Knight when they begin a landmark six-month run on BATMAN. Solving the murder of a child's parents forces Batman to revisit the tragic night that created him, where the most shocking discovery of all awaits. The mystery behind the mythos unravels in BATMAN #620 this October.

## The Hot List THIS MONTH

FORMERLY KNOWN AS  
THE JUSTICE  
LEAGUE #1 OF 6

This new miniseries by Keith Giffen, J.M. DeMatteis, Kevin Maguire and Joe Rubinstein reunites the creative team behind the classic '80s JUSTICE LEAGUE!



**SUPERMAN:  
BIRTHRIGHT #1 OF 12**

Mark Waid returns to DC as Leinil Yu makes his DCU debut! Everyone knows Jor-El sent his infant son to Earth to avoid death on Krypton...this story takes a closer look at Jor-El's emotional struggles with the decision.



**TEEN TITANS #1**

DC's hottest new super-team debuts, featuring guest appearances by Superman, Batman, The Flash, and Jay Garrick! What do teenaged super-heroes do on the weekends? They hang with the Teen Titans!



**EMPIRE #1**

Mark Waid, Barry Kitson, and James Pascoe continue the Empire saga with a bold new start! The unstoppable tyrant Golgoth and his conquering armies have eradicated every significant military force on Earth, bringing the world into the grasp of a dictator.



### PROS & CONS

Pack up your sketchbook — this summer DC dominates the convention circuit, starting with the Comic-Con International held inside the San Diego Convention Center July 17-20. With over 63,000 attendees in 2002, expect an even bigger and better show this year, yet when you consider the scheduled lineup we're bringing to this party — 100 BULLETS' Brian Azzarello and Eduardo Risso, Ed Brubaker (CATWOMAN), Mike Carey (LUCIFER), GOTHAM CENTRAL's Michael Lark, Geoff Johns and Mike McKone (TEEN TITANS), Judd Winick of OUTSIDERS, HAWKMAN's Rags Morales, Kevin O'Neill (LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN), Carlos Pacheco, Jimmy Palmiotti, Jill Thompson, and FABLES' Bill Willingham — there's really only one booth worth visiting. Stop by and say hi! Comic-Con International is also the home of the prestigious Will Eisner Awards, and who else but yours truly leads the pack of publishers with 23 nominations? Bill Willingham's FABLES capped off a storybook year for Vertigo, garnering the most nods with four (Best New and Continuing Series, Best Serialized Story and Best Writer), while GOTHAM CENTRAL earned Best Writer nominations for both Ed Brubaker and Greg Rucka,

plus Best Penciller/Inker for Michael Lark. Lark shares the nomination for his work on BATMAN: NINE LIVES, which is also up for Best Publication Design and Best Coloring by Matt Hollingsworth. Other multi-nominated DC titles include THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN, VOL. 2 (Best Limited Series, Best Penciller/Inker for Kevin O'Neill); PROMETHEA (Best Penciller/Inker and Cover Artist for J. H. Williams III and Mick Gray, Best Coloring for Jeremy Cox); and last year's big winner, 100 BULLETS, which added two more notches to its extra-large belt with nods for Best Coloring (Patricia Mulvihill) and Cover Artist (SUPERMAN: RED SON's Dave Johnson). Even though the winners will be announced July 18, allow us to congratulate one and all here and now!

Once you've soaked up that California sun, we recommend joining the DCU Crew in the Windy City August 8-10 for WizardWorld Chicago. Among our legion of super-creators scheduled to appear are WizardWorld Guest of Honor Jim Lee, Geoff Johns, Judd Winick, Lee Bermejo, and Ed McGuinness, who's hard at work on the upcoming SUPERMAN/BATMAN monthly out this September! (Please note that due to forces beyond our control, convention guest lists are always subject to change!)

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right now!

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another scan from England

*HG Wells*





nd's own

